

ANNEX K (ESCORTS) TO HQMC REPATRIATION OPLAN

1. PURPOSE: This annex provides guidance on the use of escorts who are present to meet the returnee(s) outside of the continental United States (OCONUS) and remain with him/her through the processing centers. Escorts are not CACOs; CACOs assist the NOK, escorts are for the returnees. Escort(s) should obviously have a favorable existing rapport with the returnee(s) and be designated from the returnee's duty installation, prior to release. Personnel assigned to military police (MP) units will not be used as escorts unless the returnee is an MP. Escort teams may include representatives from any Service. In addition to personal escort(s), a physician, psychologist and public affairs officer shall normally accompany each flight transporting returnees to the continental United States (CONUS) processing center.

2. OBJECTIVE: To provide returnees with:

- a. Personal escorts to assist in the expeditious processing of returnees.
- b. A Public Affairs escort to satisfy press media requirements.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES:

a. In the event of a small release, Commandant of the Marine Corps (MRC) may designate US personnel who were returnees who and have since returned to military duty as personal escorts to returnees.

b. Appropriate commands shall assign personal escorts based on returnee needs, aircraft resources, and escort availability.

c. Escorts shall support returnee needs and security as required, but shall not interfere with Service medical personnel and their duties.

d. In cases of mass releases, for each returnee movement to the designated CONUS installation for processing of returnees:

(1) Major Supporting Commands (MSC) may be required to support the appointment of personal escorts.

(2) The ratio of escorts (when assigned in accordance with paragraph b above) will be one per aircraft per hospital destination. These escorts will not remain at the hospitals, but will return to their point of embarkation.

(3) In the event of mass releases (and overseas personal escorts return to parent command), commanders of installations designated to receive and process US personnel returnees may be

required to appoint personal escorts (one per returnee). Escorts will commence duty upon arrival of the returnee at the installation.

4. PROCEDURES:

a. Selection criteria for personal escorts:

(1) For enlisted returnee - a mature, senior noncommissioned officer with knowledge of personnel and administrative procedures. The escort's military occupational specialty (MOS), experience, family status, and general background should be, when practicable, similar to those of the returnee.

(2) For officer or warrant officer returnee - the escort should be of equal grade, preferably with a background similar to that of the returnee.

b. Personal Escorts assigned at the JCPC will assist the returnee in taking care of their personal affairs, ensure personal security and safety, assist in all required administrative actions, and help in every way possible during processing. The personal escort will remain with the returnee throughout hospitalization in CONUS and until the returnee is released for leave or duty (except during mass releases HQMC appoints the escort as in paragraph 3a above).

c. Escorts are under the control of commanders responsible for the returnees. Commanders will ensure that assigned escorts prepare after-action reports. These reports will include major events and activities, problem areas, returnee/escort relationship, on-going and incomplete actions, and recommendations for improving the procedures of this plan. A copy of each after-action report will be forwarded through command channels to PP&O within 30 days after termination of escort duties.

d. Travel orders will be authorized for escorts to perform necessary travel and transportation will be IAW Chap 7, Part Q, to Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR). In-theater travel orders issued to escorts coming to CONUS will include return travel and will authorize leave in CONUS if appropriate.

e. Concept:

(1) Upon arrival of inbound Air Mobility Command (AMC) airlift of returnees, the OIC will assign an individual escort and Public Affairs Escort to accompany U.S. personnel to CONUS designated processing centers. A minimum of 1 personal escort will accompany each airlift in CONUS.

(2) Escorts dispatched from YELLOW RIBBON TEAM will be under the command and control of the Officer-in-Charge (OIC). The OIC is appointed by the YELLOW RIBBON TEAM Chief and serves as OIC until returned to their parent command.

(3) Escorts from the overseas command may continue on CONUS flights if in the judgment of the YELLOW RIBBON TEAM OIC it has been determined that is in the best interest of the returnee that the escort

remain, until he has reached the CONUS processing center. All other escorts from the overseas command will be returned on the first available flight to the parent command.

(4) Administrative and logistical support (emergency leave, pay) for escorts will be the responsibility of the YELLOW RIBBON TEAM OIC.

(5) Overseas commands will be notified of the status or change in status of their escorts.

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